

A previous "Spectator" had the brave & honest article, which you (or some reader before us) had pencil-lined in margin, exposing the savage & abominable treatment of O'Donovan Rossa, & other Fenian prisoners, in English jails. That is a villainous trait in England too, - the way ~~that~~ it (i.e. its Govt. & leading, governing classes, whoever they are) stands by its servants, though thick & thin, no matter how bad they behave. England is a dishonored land, to-day, for letting off Eyre, Gov. of Jamaica; and what has she done, or will she, to punish that wretch who ran down the U.S. ship "Onesida", (coming out of Japan) - something, I trust, she will feel compelled to do yet, if not for justice' sake, yet to keep peace with the U.S. That was a cold-blooded, fiendish act, - to cut down (meaning to cut into, I believe) a U.S. ship, & then deliberately keep on her course without stopping to see if help were needed. Can England expect such things will be forgotten? She is laying up too many rods for herself, too abundant cause for fearful retributions to burst on her head yet. And now will she hold a strict, just hand with those jail governors who so tortured the Fenian prisoners? Small sympathy have I with that blundering, stupid, absurd Fenian movement; yet, much with the deep-seated feeling, in their inmost being, of the contemptuous, insulting, oppressive treatment which England has dealt out to them and their fathers and Ireland so long. But is it true - it would be a curious truth indeed - as the "Spectator" states it, in the article on Froude - that it has not been the real Celtic men, but men of English & Scotch origin and religious faith, who have stirred up the worst feeling in Ireland, & made England the most trouble there?

I read aloud to Ade, last week, the report of the Dublin meeting, at which Alfred offered his resolution, and made his speech, receiving such warm & ample support by the vote. We were glad to see it. Please to give him our right hand, & our very sincere regard. I well remember his foresight in the time of our war, and his prompt judgment of ~~about~~ the wrong England had done us, in the case of the "Alabama". Few in Ireland even, - almost none in England, - then would have agreed with him. Now, nearly all ~~are~~ ^{do}, & there is even an eagerness to make full reparation for the losses inflicted by that pirate, - with such wonderfully just retribution sent to the bottom of the sea, in the English Channel itself. - English nobles, & others of first prominence, are even now on the ocean, coming to our country, to sit with American Commissioners, on American soil, to settle that business; - how, remains to be seen, but assuredly, in a very different tone & style from that of 6 to 8 years ago.

has come I will write you last night - a brief note, mostly about Richard. It came in my absence.

I hope this long story - written with a pen - will be of some use to you. I am, dear friend, ever yours, Wm. M.

Two little rolls of newspaper. Ships, also, you kindly sent me; but I shall not have the time to read them, (save one or 2 of the briefest ones, wh. I have read, - or had been copied into our paper. Indeed the "Spectator" and "Graphic" are about as much as I can do, in the way of English journalism, I am behind all the time, with home-reading; & the Daily "Adv." (Boston), the Semi-Weekly "Evening Post" (New York), the "Nation", the "Woman's Journal", the "Atlantic Monthly", the "Old and New", (both monthly) keep my wits' ends to hold my own, - to say not a word of books! In now - alas! - I am reading a novel (I give it about an hour in the evening) It is not a new one either. Long years ago - certainly a dozen - you, first, mentioned Anthony ~~Trollope~~ Trollope's novels, as books wh. entertain & please you greatly. At that time, didn't average a novel in 2 years; and had a prejudice against the Trollope name & family generally. Even now, I sh^d. scarce think of reading Anthony T. in any other shape than a novel. But I do him there, - & very much too. It is "Barchester Towers" I am reading now, for the first time; and am in the thick of its interest. Miss Thorne's great party at Ullathorne. With many of its characters I had already got acquainted, in "The Warden", "Small House at Allington", and particularly "The Last Chronicle of Barset", which of times subsequent to "Barchester Towers", - but never mind that! portrays English country life & society - espec. ecclesiastical, &c. - for I see ^{clearly} as well as Jane Austen, or Mrs. Gaskell, - & that is saying much, for I think Mrs. Gaskell's "Wives and Daughters" one of the most admirable books ever I met with - alas, that it was not fully finished. It is a book of unexceptionable excellence, I think, to be admired & praised without qualification. - It was a clever hit in one of Trollope's books, & makes Archdeacon Grantham go to his library one morning, immediately after breakfast, on the plea of an extremely busy day before him, spread out books, writing materials, &c., & then take up a novel of Rabelais, & himself down to its luxurious perusal! I imagine he "hit the nail on the head" and I believe I had a dim consciousness of something of the sort, in my experience; but I can say, too, I generally fought off any such inclination in working hours.

Yours of Jan. 27. had come to hand just before not long before that, the one of Jan. 24. We are most happy to know that you think, so often & so kindly, of our Country in general, & Leicester in particular. We should be very sorry to know, & are glad we don't know it, that you & were not coming to see us again; - no Lake Superior trips all alone, when you do; - but we do have awful accidents, on steam-boats & trains. Some fearful ones this winter, & how to stop them, is an anxious, painful question. Yes, I know you are an "old residenter" - but, in this Country, know, by experience, that new-fledged post-office clerks, advise, like "know-nothing Joseph" (nor any body else, much,) and so I much affect "street & common-sense" in addressing letters, even to a moderate sized city like Boston. Have

no such difficulty in Dublin? If so, you are more lucky than we. - I think too young of him. 3. (see 17th I think)